THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the Association of the Indian Universities (AIU), a two days, 'South-Zone Vice-Chancellors Conference' was organised by AIU at Mysore on 29th and 30th September, 2001. The Conference was attended by 47 Vice-Chancellors of Southern Universities, besides others.

(c) and (d) The following issues were discussed during the Conference:—

— Issues pertaining to distance education

— Private initiatives in higher education

— Monitoring mechanism for qualitative education in universities

— Restructing of first degree education

The Conference was primarily meant to apprise the Vice-Chancellors on the thinking of different universities on the issues indicated above. The Vice-Chancellors are expected to formulate their own activities on the basis of their collective thinking.

Child care

5471. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether, out of every 100 children born today, 63 births are not registered at all and 47suffer from malnutrition in the first three years of live, and as many as 26 per cent are born with birth weight, less than 2500 grams;

(b) whether 15 per cent of the children never go to school and out of the remaining who join first grade, only 52 per cent reach the fifth grade; and

(c) if so, what specific steps are being taken by Government for more investment on children, especially on their health, education and protection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) As per the latest available data, births of 40% of children are

registered (Source: UNICEF—Multi Indicator Survey). The proportion of children under five who fall below minus two and below minus three standard deviation from medium weight for age of NCHS/WHO reference population is 47% (Source: NFHS-II). The proportion of five births that weight below 2500 gms is 22.7% (NFHS-II). 16% of the boys and 26% of the girls child in the age group of 6—14 years do not attend school. 57% of the students who are enrolled in the school reach the fifth grade (Source: Selected Educational Statistics, D/o Education, 1999-2000).

(c) The Government has taken several steps to improve the condition of children in the country. The Integrated Child Development Services Programmes delivers an integrated package of basic services including supplementary nutrition, pre-school education., immunization, health check-up, referral services, and nutrition and health education. The Reproductive and Child Health Programme was launched in 1997 for providing child health care and maternal services. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has been launched with the primary objective to provide free and quality elementary education to all children by 2010. The proposed Constitutional (93rd Amendment) Bill, 2001 has the objective of making education of all children in the age group for 6—14 years a fundamental right.

Unemployed youth

5472. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of educated unemployed youth in the country, State-wise for the last three years;

(b) whether Government have ever conducted scientific study to find out the causes for this problem;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether Government plan to conduct such study and remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.